

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, MARR, TSPA, NATO

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF US INFORMATION ON COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY (COMSEC)

REFS: A. USNATO 5842, NOVEMBER 30, 1973

B. USNATO 6110, DECEMBER 14, 1973

C. USNATO 0176

1. WE WANT TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PROVIDE ACSA,
AND OTHER APPROPRIATE NATO BODIES, WITH INFORMATION RE-
GARDING BOTH THE VINSON AND TENLEY SYSTEMS.

2. WE PLAN TO PRESENT A BRIEFING ON TENLEY DURING THE
ACSA PLENARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 26-28, 1974. FYI THE
TENLEY BRIEFING WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THE DIGITAL
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DATA CRYPTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENTS WHICH ARE BEING DEVELOPED

AS PART OF THE TRI-TAC SWITCH. HOWEVER, PRESENT POSITION IS THAT THESE EQUIPMENTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SEPARATE RELEASE TO NATO FOR TWO REASONS:

(A) ANY ACCELERATION OF DATA EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT COULD INTERFERE WITH THE STRINGENT AND CLOSELY COORDINATED SCHEDULE FOR THE TOTAL TRI-TAC SYSTEM, AND

(B) THE RELEASE OF THESE DATA EQUIPMENTS WOULD REQUIRE A SEPARATE APPROACH TO US NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. ON

THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT PLAN, NATIONAL AUTHORITIES MAY FIND A SEPARATE RELEASE UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT COULD DETRACT FROM OVERALL OBJECTIVE THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, I.E. TO OFFER THE COMPLETE TTC-39/TENLEY SYSTEM FOR DETECTION AS A STANDARD NATO EQUIPMENT. WOULD THEREFORE PREFER NOT TO ADDRESS MEDIUM SPEED DATA REQUIREMENT AS SEPARATE BRIEFING TOPIC. END FYI.

3. THE TENLEY BRIEFER WOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE VINSON SYSTEM. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PRESENT A SEPARATE BRIEFING ON VINSON AT THIS TIME. A MAJORITY OF ACSA TECHNICAL PERSONNEL HEARD THE VINSON BRIEFING BEFORE AND WE PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED A DOCUMENT DESCRIBING VINSON. THEREFORE, WE WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL THE FIRST VINSON MODEL HAS BEEN ACTUALLY DEVELOPED SOMETIME IN THE FALL OF CY 74 SO THAT WE CAN ACTUALLY DEMONSTRATE ITS CAPABILITIES.

4. REGARDING PARA 2B, REF B, INFORMATION ON SAVILLE HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE RELEASED TO NATO WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE RELEASE POLICY ESTABLISHED BY THE USCSB. OFFER OF VINSON EQUIPMENT FOR PURCHASE HAS BEEN IMPLICIT IN DISCUSSIONS IN NATO. OFFER OF TENLEY EQUIPMENT FOR PURCHASE CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL A SECOND APPROACH IS MADE TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

5. US MEMBER ACSA IS AWARE OF PLANNING ACTIONS CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND WILL BE ADVISED OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

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